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his master desired to oppose the free development of Germany. The war of 1870, he declares, was caused by Bismarck, who set the trap of the Hohenzollern candidature in Spain and manipulated the Ems telegrams. "I never had the share in the control of policy attributed to me, and I had none at all in military matters. Yet I accept the whole responsibility, so disgusted am I by the hectic repudiation of past acts and sentiments in the hope of winning favour. If our Generals had won I should have become a great man. They were beaten, so I am an incapable. Success makes renown. I do not protest against the common lot. My motive is entirely disinterested. I wish to cleanse my country from the stain of having unleashed war when it only defended its independence. Every Frenchman felt that a Hohenzollern ruler at Madrid would be a daily menace to France."

The fourteenth volume describes the coming of the war. Ollivier approved the French protest and was ready, if necessary, to fight, but when the Hohenzollern candidature was withdrawn he was immensely relieved. The Emperor seemed very satisfied but a little unquiet—satisfied because he regarded the Hohenzollern affair as liquidated, unquiet on account of the disappointment of the country that the quarrel with Germany was not definitely cleared up. "It is a great moral victory," remarked Nigra, the Italian Ambassador, "and I hope the Emperor will be content." "Yes," replied Napoleon III, "it is peace." Not a word was said of guarantees, and it was agreed that no further action should be taken before the meeting of the Council on the following morning. Gramont, the Foreign Minister, on the other hand, was far from satisfied and desired a declaration from King William himself that, the

candidature would never be renewed. When the ruler returned from the Tuileries to St. Cloud he was greeted by the war party, with the words : Le pays ne sera pas satisfait C'est une honte! exclaimed the Empress. The Emperor, a very sick man, forgot his promise (to employ the mild expression of Ollivier) to take no action till the Council met, and with the aid of Gramont concocted and despatched the fatal demand for a guarantee.

When Ollivier heard the almost incredible news the same evening his first instinct was to resign. He decided to remain, hoping even at the eleventh hour to prevent the fall of the avalanche. " Thereby I shared official responsibility for an act which I deplored." He would have been wiser to go, for